

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 21, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. In this response, the specification and claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20, 33 and 36 have been amended to correct various informalities and to remove reference to unnecessary "step of" language. The amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims and support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Objection to the Specification After the Allowability of Claims 1-32 and 36-40

At page 2, the Office Action objects to the specification as having a number of informalities. In particular, the Office Action suggests replacing the word "nodes" with the word "node" at lines 19 and 22 of page 1 of the specification. However, the Applicants find no recitation of either the word nodes or node at the identified lines of the specification, and therefore no changes to the identified paragraph have been made.

Additionally, the Office Action objects to page 4, lines 17 and 21 of the specification as making reference to a calibration initialization indicator 210 which is not numbered as such in the accompanying FIG. 2. It is noted that the calibration initialization indicator is illustrated as CALIBRATION INIT in FIG. 2, and the Applicants therefore have amended the specification to move reference to element number 210. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

The Office Action also objects to the specification for failing to have a brief summary heading. However, the Applicants note that the permissive language ("should" rather than "must" or "shall") of 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b) does not require, but merely suggests, the incorporation of a brief summary. Accordingly, the Applicants have opted to forego amending the specification to include a brief summary section.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the specification of the objections is improper at this time. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections therefore is respectfully requested.

Indefinite Rejection of Claims 33-35

At page 2, the Office Action identifies claims 33 as being indefinite as it recites the feature "to initiate a second mode of operation" prior to introducing a first mode of operation. However, the Applicants are unaware of any law, rule or regulation requiring the introduction of numbered features in strict numerical order. The Applicants note that the first mode of operation is introduced with respect to the claimed signal node feature in claim 33, and therefore both the second mode of operation and first mode of operation are distinctly identified by claim 33. The Applicants respectfully submit that the introduction of the first mode subsequent to the introduction of the second mode in no way represents a failure to particularly point out or distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention of claim 33. Accordingly, the Applicants have elected to forego modifying claim 33 with respect to introduction of the first and second modes of operation as proposed by the Examiner. At page 3 of the Office Action, claim 33 is also objected to for reciting the limitation of "said counter" without providing sufficient antecedent basis for this feature. The Applicants have amended claim 33 to provide proper antecedent basis for this feature. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefinite rejection of claim 33-35 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required; or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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